

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6790
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 2608

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION: LA PRENSA COMMENTARIES

SUMMARY: LA PRENSA HAS PUBLISHED A SERIES OF PRELIMINARY ANALYSES
AND COMMENTS ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PEDRO
JOAQUIN CHAMORRO CARDERAL. A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST FOUR ARTICLES
FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY

1. LA PRENSA BEGINS BY SAYING THAT, SINCE THE DAY THE CRIMINAL
JUDGE RECEIVED THE CASE, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN. THE
STATEMENTS MADE BY THE ALLEGED ASSASSINS ARE CONTRADICTIONARY AND, THERE

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FORE, FALSE. BASING A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CRIME ON THESE STATEMENTS
IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE BULK OF THE AVAILABLE WITNESSES AND FACTS HAVE
YET TO BE EXAMINED. WHY, ASKS LA PRENSA, WERE THE CRIMINALS APPRE-
HENDED RAPIDLY WHEN, NORMALLY, THE AUTHORITIES ARE UNABLE TO UNCOVER
CLUES TO SUCH CRIMES?

2. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE YET TO BE INVESTIGATED OR TURNED OVER
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TO THE JUDGE:

- A) THE STATEMENTS GIVEN BY THE PRISONERS CAPTURED BY THE POLICE.
- B) PARAFIN TESTS OF THE SUSPECTS.
- C) POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF OTHER CONSPIRATORS.

D) THE SHELL CASINGS FROM THE SHOTGUN USED.

E) THERE HAS BEEN NO COMPLETE POLICE REPORT.

F) TELEPHONE RECORDS OF CALLS TO RAMOS IN MIAMI HAVE NOT BEEN EXAMINED.

G) SEVERAL VEHICLES ALLEGEDLY USED BY SUSPECTS HAVE YET TO BE EXAMINED

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H) POTENTIAL WITNESSES HAVE NOT BEEN QUESTIONED.

I) HOW DID THE SUSPECTS OBTAIN WEAPONS.

J) A CORONER'S REPORT HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

3. IN SUMMARY, ALMOST FIVE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE CHAMORRO'S ASSASSINATION AND THE CURTAIN HAS YET TO BE RAISED UPON A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION.

COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES REFLECT A POPULAR ATTITUDE THAT THE GON IS TRYING TO COVER UP THE FACTS OF THE CRIME IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE AUTHORS OF THE CRIME. THE ABSENCE OF A SPEEDY AND COMPLETE ACCOUNT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TING IS ONE OF MANY POINTS WHICH IS AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE OPPOSITION DIALOGING WITH SOMOZA. HOWEVER, RECENTLY SOME STEPS HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN TAKEN. A NEW JUDGE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO. HE HAS OBTAINED A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD SHOWING THAT ONLY ONE OF THE SEVERAL WEAPONS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE PRISONERS, A RIFLE, WAS PURCHASED LEGALLY IN NICARAGUA THROUGH THE GN WAREHOUSE. ADDITIONALLY, THE JUDGE HAS ISSUED AN ORDER PREVENTING THE DEPARTURE FROM NICARAGUA OF ANTONIO DIAZ PALACIOS, A POTENTIAL MATERIAL WITNESS, WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS TOLD BY SILVIO PENA OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT PRIOR TO ITS EXECUTION. BOTH OF THESE ACTIONS HAD BEEN URGED BY LA PRENSA.

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